

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS


Claims 1 – 18, 20 – 48 and 78 – 119 are currently pending in the application. Before prosecution on the merits, please enter the above amendment to claims 22 and 105. Please cancel claims 2 – 7, 9 – 18, 20, 21, 23 – 41, 45 – 48, 79, 80, 83 – 86, 90 – 99, 104, 106, 108, and 111 – 119. No new matter has been added.

Applicants will also be requesting a first action interview under the new USPTO Pilot Program, and the present preliminary amendment is intended to place the application in conformity with all necessary USPTO requirements, namely limiting the application to 20 claims with 3 independent claims. After entry of the present amendment, the pending claims correspond to the following 20 claims: 1, 8, 22, 42 – 44, 78, 81 – 82, 87 – 89, 100 – 103, 105, 107, 109, and 110; where claims 1, 78 and 100 are the only independent claims.

It is believed that all of the claims presented in this application are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200


Brett A. Hertzberg
Registration No. 42,660
Direct Dial: 206.342.6255

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE